



# Food Waste Reduction

## DECISION TREE FOR BUSINESSES

Use this decision tree to help determine feasible and effective food waste reduction practices for your business. Refer to [Get Food Smart TN \(GFSTN\)](#) for additional resources and technical assistance.

**HAVE YOU CONSIDERED DIVERTING FOOD WASTE AT YOUR BUSINESS?**

N

Reducing food waste has many benefits including feeding hungry neighbors, reducing GHG emissions, and more! Check out [GFSTN](#) for more information.

Y

**DOES YOUR BUSINESS GENERATE WASTED FOOD THAT IS STILL EDIBLE?**

N

Did you know you're legally protected to donate food? The majority of food sent to landfills is still fit for consumption and could be given to those in need including the 1 in 7 Tennesseans who are food insecure. To learn more, visit [GFSTN](#).

Y

Great! Visit [GFSTN](#) for more information on food donor liability protections, locating a donation center, technical assistance, and next steps!

Conduct a waste audit to determine how much of your waste could be diverted through composting. This will help you consider which diversion option is the best fit for your business.

N

**DO YOU KNOW WHAT VOLUME OF YOUR WASTE IS COMPOSTABLE MATERIALS?**

Y

**DO YOU HAVE A COMMERCIAL COMPOST SERVICE PROVIDER IN YOUR AREA?**

N

Y

**CAN YOU BUDGET FOR THE ADDITIONAL COMPOST SERVICES? REMEMBER THAT OFTEN WASTE DISPOSAL FEES WILL SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASE DUE TO SMALLER VOLUMES AND/OR FEWER PICKUPS NEEDED, AND THESE FUNDS CAN BE REALLOCATED TO COMPOST SERVICES.**

N

Y

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN OR CAPABLE OF COMPOSTING ON SITE?**

N

Y

There are other ways that you can reduce food waste at your business, including source reduction. For more information about source reduction and other food waste reduction activities, check out [GFSTN](#).

Great! The first steps include choosing a location for your compost pile and training staff on new practices. Use our [Composting Brochure](#) to get started!

### What's Next?

1. Reach out to your [local service provider](#) for an estimate.
2. Create an [organics collection program](#) for your office or business.
3. Train staff on new food waste reduction practices.
4. Begin collecting food waste for composting and diverting it from landfills!